

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# Union Calendar No. 216

# H. R. 972

**[Report No. 117–294]**

To establish the Western Riverside County Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 2021

Mr. CALVERT (for himself and Mr. TAKANO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

APRIL 25, 2022

Additional sponsor: Mr. AGUILAR

APRIL 25, 2022

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

# A BILL

To establish the Western Riverside County Wildlife Refuge,  
and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Wildlife Refuge Con-  
5 servation and Recreation for the Community Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

7                   **NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.**

8       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior (in  
9 this section referred to as the “Secretary”), acting  
10 through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall  
11 establish as a national wildlife refuge the lands, waters,  
12 and interests therein acquired under subsection (g). The  
13 national wildlife refuge shall be known as the “Western  
14 Riverside County National Wildlife Refuge” (in this sec-  
15 tion referred to as the “Wildlife Refuge”).

16       (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Wildlife Refuge  
17 shall be—

18                   (1) to conserve, manage, and restore wildlife  
19                  habitats for the benefit of present and future gen-  
20                  erations of Americans;

21                   (2) to conserve species listed as threatened or  
22                  endangered under the Endangered Species Act of  
23                  1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) or the California En-  
24                  dangered Species Act (California Fish and Game  
25                  Code 2050–2068), or which is a covered species

1       under the Western Riverside County Multiple Spe-  
2       cies Habitat Conservation Plan;

3               (3) to support the recovery and protection of  
4       threatened and endangered species under the En-  
5       dangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et  
6       seq.); and

7               (4) to provide for wildlife habitat connectivity  
8       and migratory corridors within the Western River-  
9       side County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation  
10      Plan Area.

11             (c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
12       gress that the Secretary shall seek to acquire land, water,  
13       or interests therein (including conservation easements), or  
14       sufficient to satisfy the goals established in the Multiple  
15       Species Habitat Conservation Plan, within the acquisition  
16       boundaries pursuant to this section, including but not lim-  
17       ited to those which have been heretofore or may be herein-  
18       after acquired by the Western Riverside County Regional  
19       Conservation Authority for Purposes of the Multiple Spe-  
20       cies Habitat Conservation Plan.

21             (d) NOTIFICATION OF ESTABLISHMENT.—The Sec-  
22       retary shall publish notice of the establishment of the  
23       Wildlife Refuge in the Federal Register.

24             (e) ACQUISITION BOUNDARIES.—The Secretary shall  
25       establish the acquisition boundaries of the Wildlife Refuge

1 as the lands and waters within the Western Riverside  
2 County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area  
3 (as depicted on maps and described in the Final Western  
4 Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation  
5 Plan dated June 17, 2003).

6 (f) ADMINISTRATION.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Upon the establishment of  
8 the Wildlife Refuge and thereafter, the Secretary  
9 shall administer all federally owned lands, waters,  
10 and interests in the Wildlife Refuge in accordance  
11 with the National Wildlife Refuge System Adminis-  
12 tration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.) and  
13 this section. The Secretary may use such additional  
14 statutory authority as may be available to the Sec-  
15 retary for the conservation, management, recovery  
16 and restoration of fish and wildlife and habitat, the  
17 development of compatible wildlife dependent out-  
18 door recreation opportunities, and the facilitation of  
19 fish and wildlife interpretation and education as the  
20 Secretary considers appropriate to carry out the pur-  
21 poses of this section and serve the objectives of the  
22 Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat  
23 Conservation Plan.

24 (2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS REGARDING  
25 NON-FEDERAL LANDS.—The Secretary may enter

1       into cooperative agreements with the State of California,  
2       any political subdivision thereof, or any other  
3       person—

4                     (A) for the management, in a manner con-  
5       sistent with this section and the Western River-  
6       side County Multiple Species Habitat Conserva-  
7       tion Plan, of lands that are owned by such  
8       State, subdivision, or other person and located  
9       within the acquisition boundaries of the Wildlife  
10      Refuge;

11                  (B) to promote public awareness of the  
12       natural resources of the Western Riverside  
13       County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation  
14       Plan Area; or

15                  (C) to encourage public participation in the  
16       conservation of those resources.

17       (g) ACQUISITION AND TRANSFERS OF LANDS AND  
18       WATERS FOR WILDLIFE REFUGE.—

19                  (1) ACQUISITIONS.—The Secretary shall ac-  
20       quire by donation, purchase with appropriated  
21       funds, or exchange such lands and waters, or inter-  
22       ests therein (including conservation easements), as  
23       they become available, that will achieve the purposes  
24       of subsection (b), within the acquisition boundaries  
25       of the Wildlife Refuge, except that the lands, waters,

1 and interests therein owned by the State of California  
2 and its political subdivisions may be acquired  
3 only by donation.

4 (2) TRANSFERS.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The head of any Federal  
6 department or agency, including any agency  
7 within the Department of the Interior, that  
8 has jurisdiction of any Federal property located  
9 within the boundaries of the Wildlife Refuge as  
10 described by this section shall, not later than 1  
11 year after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
12 submit to the Secretary an assessment of the  
13 suitability of such property for inclusion in the  
14 Wildlife Refuge.

15 (B) ASSESSMENT.—Any assessment under  
16 subparagraph (A) shall include—

17 (i) parcel descriptions and best existing  
18 land surveys for such property;

19 (ii) a list of existing special reservations  
20 designations, or purposes of the property;

21 (iii) a list of all known or suspected  
22 hazardous substance contamination of such  
23 property, and any facilities, surface water,  
24 or groundwater on such property;

(iv) the status of withdrawal of such property from—

(II) the General Mining Act of 1872 (30 U.S.C. 22 et seq.); and

(C) INCLUSION IN WILDLIFE REFUGE.—

1 ministrative jurisdiction of the Secretary  
2 for the purposes of this section.

3 (D) PROPERTY UNSUITABLE FOR INCLU-  
4 SION.—Property determined by the Secretary to  
5 be unsuitable for inclusion in the Wildlife Ref-  
6 uge based on an assessment submitted under  
7 subparagraph (A) shall be subsequently trans-  
8 ferred to the Secretary for purposes of this sec-  
9 tion by the head of the department or agency  
10 that has jurisdiction of such property if such  
11 property becomes suitable for inclusion in the  
12 Wildlife Refuge as determined by the Secretary  
13 in consultation with the head of the department  
14 or agency that has jurisdiction of such prop-  
15 erty.

16 (E) PUBLIC ACCESS.—If property trans-  
17 ferred to the Secretary under this paragraph al-  
18 lows for public access at the time of transfer,  
19 such access shall be maintained unless such ac-  
20 cess—

- 21 (i) would be incompatible with the  
22 purposes of the Wildlife Refuge;  
23 (ii) would jeopardize public health or  
24 safety; or

- 1                   (iii) must be limited due to emergency
- 2                   circumstances.



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